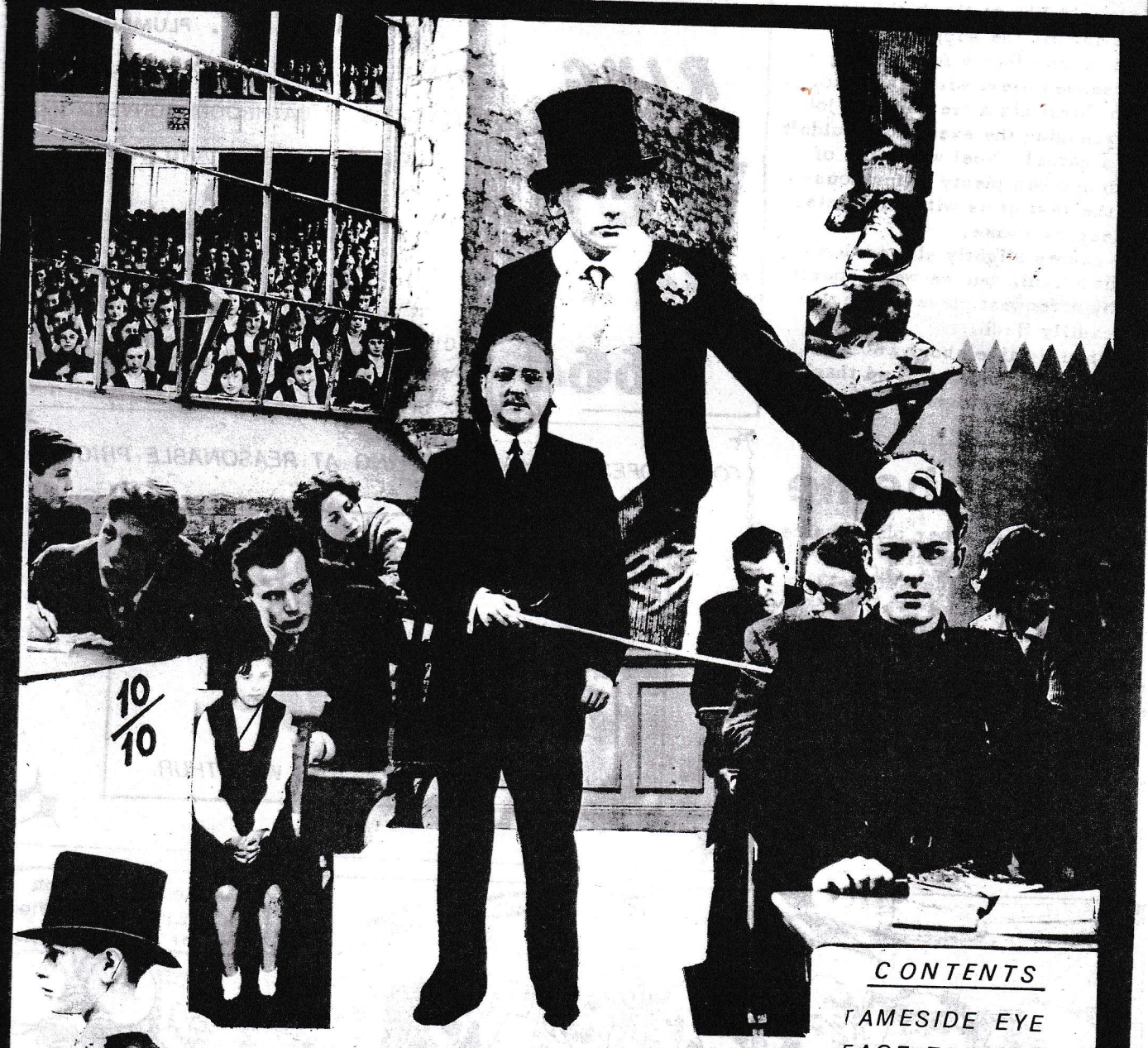
TAMESIDES FIRST COMMUNITY PAPER

WEST END BULLETIN - SEPT 1977 - NUMBER 7

FIVE PENCE



BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE!

CONTENTS

TAMESIDE EYE
FACE TO FACE
ASHTON HOSPITAL
YOUR RIGHTS
FIRE SERVICE
BACK CHAT

24hr POOL GAME

On Saturday 10th Sept. at 2.00pm the Youth started a 24 hour long ordeal of sponsored pool, to raise money towards the Community Centre Building Fund (see back page).
Stubbs, Julie, Carl, Chris, Noel, Manzi and John played approx 550 games.
We would like to thank the committee for all the support they gave us and Barry for keeping our senses alert with his disco.
John Dorsi did a tremendous job in arranging the event but couldn't win a game! Noel won most of them and had plenty of fun dousing the rest of us with cold water to keep us awake.
The games slightly slowed down at about 5 a.m. but we were spurred on by a request played for us on Piccadilly Radio.
We should raise about £60 towards the funds, and we thank all the public who generously sponsored us.

ANY NEWS RING WEB 330 -- 5664

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Playscheme

Now that the summer playscheme is over, most of the kids in the West End will be pleased to know that the playscheme is still open 4 days aweek at the Community Centre.
So you can come stright after school, and enjoy painting making models, play table tennis or jump around on the inflatables.

Mon, Wed, Thurs 3.30-6.30.
Fridays(swimming) 3.30-6.00.

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PREPARING A PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION IN TAMESIDE.
DAILY MIRROR
Meanwhile — back at the Town Hall! ---------
--- "What are you doing Willie?"

AFTER 2 YEARS HASSLE

T'side's Xmas Present to George

It has taken George Hogg of 9, Birch St. over two years to find out what Tameside intend to do with houses 3,5, and 7 Birch St. George is an owner-occupier and has been living there for 14 years.

George's self appointed mission was to uncover the future of houses 3,5, and 7 Birch St, two of which are bricked up, and all owned by Tameside.

Inside information has now been received from, fifth columnist Mr. Bryden, Tameside Housing Boss, but before August this year George knew nothing.

One might have thought that Tameside were holding a highly guarded official secret when it comes to letting people know what is happening to their homes. Never the less George Hogg, over two years ago, took his life into his hands and set out to discover a small part of the most closely kept secret that is known as 'housing policy'.

neglect

Why is George bothered about Tameside's houses? Well, first of all the house next door to his is falling down, and has had to be shored up at the back. The result is that, due to neglect by Tameside, George's back wall is beginning to crumble. The first George knew of it was when water started pouring into his kitchen during heavy rain.

When George asked Tameside to do something about it they either ignored him or used some of the standby excuses for inefficiency - like those in a letter from Dennis Bottomley "the council has yet to make a final decision on the future of these properties". Who makes the decisions anyway?

You might be forgiven for thinking that your elected representative makes decisions for you. Unfortunately people like Mr. Bottomley have other ideas.

When George began to try and get a reply from Mr. Bottomley some months ago and was thwarted by clever Tameside policy, he went to see his local councillor, none other than the champion of the West End's fight for survival, Pat Maceneny. When George asked councillor Maceneny to find out what was happening to his neighbouring Tameside property Councillor Mac was put in his place by Bottomley who told him nothing could be done. George asked Councillor Mac who was running Tameside, the Councillors or the Officers? To which Mac had no reply.

Grant?

George then decided to apply for a grant for his kitchen, but Tameside don't leave any loopholes in their beauraucracy. Surprise, surprise, George was not eligible for a grant because Tameside would not improve their property, which being next door to George affected the future of his house too. Only when Tameside improved their houses would George be given a grant on his house!

George felt like selling and getting out but who would buy?

Last July, a demoralised George sent off a fresh batch of letters to try and find out if that "final decision" had actually been made. Amazingly a reply came back, it had been made. Houses 3,5, and 7 Birch St. are to be improved at Christmas Tameside promised.

However, George is still far from convinced "that's what they said last year and nothing has happened" said George, "and now they say this Christmas, but I won't believe it until I see it". Well, at least this time he has got it officially in writing from Mr. Bryden, even if Mr. Bottomley hasn't bothered to reply yet.

New year resolution

If the improvements are done it will be the best Christmas present George will have had for some time. "If, for some reason, Tameside fail to carry out their promise" says George "I will continue my campaign until they eventually have to do something".

SPARKS FLY AT FIRE STATION

If you try to phone the fire brigade on or after November 7th don't be too surprised if you don't get an answer - because the way things are going they will be on an all-out strike.

Down at the Ashton Fire Station, for example, there's a lot of seething discontent about their pay, their working conditions and about the way they have been treated.

Back in 1975 they were promised a 29% wage increase, but this never arrived - only the £6 with the Social Contract.

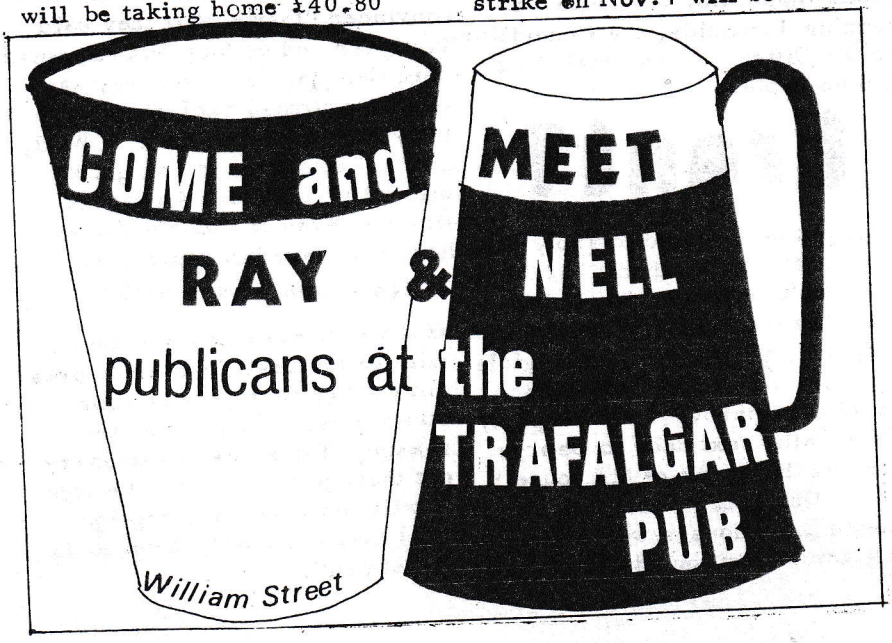
They have to work a 48 hr. week with no overtime and no shifts allowance even though their working week is split into two shifts, 9am-6pm and 6pm-9am. They get their uniforms, but contrary to popular belief no free housing or any rent allowance. The only thing they can claim is what they call 'casual overtime' which they get if they are out at a fire and come back after their official shift has finished.

At present a fireman who has been in the service for two years will be taking home £40.80 and after four years when he is fully qualified he'll be on the grand sum of £46.71. No wonder there are some firemen down at Ashton having to draw Family Income Supplement to boost their pay above the basic poverty line.

If you see them playing volley ball in the yard they're quick to tell you that's strictly their dinner hour and if that's at four in the afternoon - well that's all part of the job. When they are on duty there is little time for sitting around, they have to check all the appliances, all the breathing apparatus. In the mornings they can usually be seen down at Portland Basin, Plantation St. or Oxford St. practising water pumping, or at one of the local scrap yards testing out cutting gear.

In the afternoon they go off and check properties throughout the area with an eye to fire prevention, as well as keeping a regular eye on 1500 or so hydrants dotted around. And, on top of all that they have to go and put out fires!

They feel that few people would be prepared to do this kind of work for 48 hours and only come out with £46 and they are probably right. And that's what the strike on Nov. 7 will be all about.



NEWS ON HOUSING

At about the same time as the last issue of WEB the Government produced a green paper entitled HOUSING POLICY - A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT (H.M.S.O. price £2.50).

A green paper is a document in which the Government puts forward what it thinks might be good ideas for future policy and invites discussion and criticism. The paper suggests that local strategy should be widened in order to involve all concerned with rented and owner-occupier housing - local authorities must develop relationships with the Housing Corporation, registered Housing Associations, local house builders, building societies, new town corporations, county councils and tenants and community organisations.

There should be provision for homeless people (now to be the responsibility of local authorities), one parent families, battered women, the physically disabled, the mentally ill and handicapped, old people, single people, mobile workers and ethnic minorities.

Council tenants should be encouraged to sublet in order to use the existing housing stock more effectively.

In the private sector, more flexibility is suggested in the granting of mortgages.

The Government is also looking into ways of making a fairer balance between the advantages enjoyed by mortgage-holders and council tenants.

the public sector

In the public sector, local authorities are urged to spread their nets wider on allocations, ending the practice of imposing residential or other qualifications for inclusion on a housing list: the publication of allocation schemes should be compulsory. Councils are asked to ensure that they cater for parts of the population which up to now have relied on private landlords: in this sector come students and mobile workers. CONT. PAGE 5

west park estate

Massive YES to tenants' assn.

Having circulated the Estate with a questionnaire the Tenants Association has come up with the following results.

Out of 308 forms sent out, 304 have been returned giving support to the Tenants' Association in its aims, so nearly 99% of the tenants back the organisation.

Some of the concerns of the Association are to do with the improvement of conditions on the Estate and in the surrounding area Play amenities for children, amenities for old people, and facilities for getting repairs done

Some of the main complaints and suggestions received included:

1. The lack of playspace for children, with West End park being across a busy main rd. (and too small anyway for the 200 or so children on the Estate).
2. In the flats the lifts are used as public toilets; children use the lifts for joyriding; anyone can walk into the flats off the street and privacy is invaded; there should be a public telephone on the ground floor.
   There were many more complaints from the flats.
3. Most tenants are tired of the demolition site facing Bollington Close, and the dumping of rubbish on the estate. (council workmen being among the offenders); some tenants themselves use empty garages to dump old furniture and household rubbish; the tenants want the estate property cleaned and the drains cleared.
4. Some tenants would like to see the grass mound in front of Hamer Close levelled or replaced with flower beds and benches.

The Tenants Association is beginning to tackle some of these problems, and it is to be hoped that there will soon be some good news.

competition results

The winners of the WEB colouring competition are:-

Kay Denise Whitehead Age 7½.
54 Fitzroy St., Ashton

Carolyn Birchill, Age 8.
5 Smith Street, Ashton.

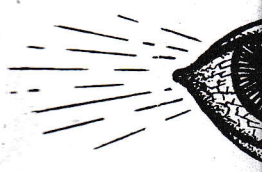
GREEN PAPER cont...

Legislation will be introduced to give council tenants security of tenure and the right to a written tenancy agreement. It is suggested that tenants should be given a greater say in the running of their estates, and enabled to take part in management decisions: this is a recognition that many tenants feel they are not getting good housing management, and that many council estates are shabby and poorly maintained.

The Government proposes to introduce a Tenant's Charter, developing a code of principles and practices designed to protect the freedom and rights of council tenants If you would like to look at the parts of the paper which affect you, it should be available for reading at the local public library.

picture by brian marks

TAMESIDE



Health

THE DOCTOR'S SICK

a web investigation

THE "REPORTER" HAS BEEN FULL OF REPORTS OF RUCTIONS AT TAMESIDE HOSPITAL RECENTLY : NOBODY SEEMS HAPPY ABOUT CONDITIONS THERE. BUT WHAT IS REALLY WRONG , AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TOREMEDY IT ? WEB INTERVIEWED DOCTORS, NURSES, PATIENTS AND OFFICIALS TO FIND OUT THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS .....

TAMESIDE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IS POOR it would need an extra £3 million this year to maintain the services it operates at present.

The average amount of money spent per person each year in Tameside on health is £48, in Westminster £192.

... why?

The amount each region is given depends on the budget they had the year before. So, woe betide regions - like the north west - which started with low budgets.

... and ... who suffers?

1. Psychiatriacs

Top of the list comes Ward 28 a psychiatric ward. Closed in June due to staff shortages. It still has not re opened. Fifteen untrained staff left, the hospital have advertised for four trained staff to replace them.

2. Casualty

A doctor claimed recently in a letter to the hospital authorities that staffing in the Casulaty Ward was so low as to be dangerous.

3. Holidays

Setting a new precedent Two wards, (childrens surgical and gynaecology) closed for the summer holidays (a month) because there weren't enough staff around to cope.

4. Geriatrics

A new much-needed day care centre for the elderly has been dealing with about 20 patients a day. It has space for 60 - but not staff.

5. Cadets

Nursing cadets were informed by the hospital that there were no jobs for them.

in previous years the hospital has found jobs for all its cadets. The Area Health Authority comments: "There is no obligation on the part of the Authority to employ cadets."

Official policy in staffing is to "attempt to improve the ratio of trained to untrained staff".

Meaning that all trained staff who leave should be replaced, but not all untrained staff. Sounds good but in practice it means fewer staff altogether. How are four expected to replace fifteen in the psychiatric ward?

6. Waiting Lists

BUT, says the hospital, our waiting lists are shorter than last year. The waiting list for general surgery is down by 29%

Great! That means there are only 1,561 patients who have been waiting for over a year. WEB asked how the waiting list was reduced. The reply: through "vetting of non-urgent cases, and crossing people who have died off the list" !!

A hospital doctor told us, half in jest, that patients are more likely to due on a waiting list than get treated.

Consultants

PAY UP! OR WAIT....

Quite a few non-urgent cases find their way into hospital beds without waiting for years - and not by filling private beds - there are only four private beds in Tameside hospital.

nudge

Patients pay to see a Consultant privately and he or she can then recommend them for free immediate NHS treatment, in fact, queue jumping.

We don't know how many non-urgent cases get into hospital this way, and looking at the waiting lists you certainly can't blame those who want speedy treatment for getting in under the door.

You can blame the Consultants who twist the rules in order to make a fast buck. No wonder the NHS is crumbling. One Consultant apparently does not even turn up to his Thursday afternoon outpatients clinic; his Registrar and Clinical Assistant deal with his patients

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PRESS more money to be put into NHS next year. About time!

Industry

Web SCOOP

Way back in WEB 4 we highlighted the case of a 16 year old child from West End School who, it was alleged, had been allowed to work unsupervised on a dangerous nailing machine. Shortly after that article came out an official enquiry into the working of the whole work experience scheme in Tameside was set up. A factory inspector produced a report on 12 of the factories to which kids were being sent, and came up with the following information:
One of the factories had already been prosecuted for violating Health and Safety Regulations.
Another had a compulsory improvement order on it.
A third was discovered to have been illegally employing children outside the scheme, and conditions in all the factories inspected were described as 'fair' to 'bad'.
The inspector concluded that none of the firms inspected were fit to employ children from the work experience scheme.
As a result, the Tameside scheme was stopped.
If it is ever started again it is obvious that Teachers and Unionists and Local Government officials have got to keep a very careful eye on prospective employers.

Housing

NO CENSORSHIP HERE (HONEST)

A confidential memo that has recently been going the rounds of the Tameside Housing Dept. recently fell off the back of a lorry into the waiting hands of WEB.
The memo warns employees of the Dept. that 'under no circumstances should matters of council policy be discussed with members of the press and instructs them to refer all such enquiries to the Divisional Housing Manager.

Clampdown

Why the clampdown? Well, it seems that the warden of an old folks home in Dukinfield was bold enough to complain to the Reporter about Tameside plans to withdraw rent collectors and, as a result, force the old folk to travel to Ashton to pay up. Housing Dept. high ups, it seems, weren't keen on the poor publicity and so sent round the memo to prevent any repetition of such boldness.

Which means that wardens of old folks homes in our area are now unable to tell WEB about the inadequate facilities (one home has no washing machines and only a line across a bath for drying) and poor services (lights over a dangerous staircase out for a fortnight before being repaired), because they would feel that their jobs were at risk if they did so.

Disturbed

We were disturbed about this so we rang up Mr. Bryden, the Housing Manager and asked him what was going on.
He said that he wan't trying to silence wardens, or anyone else. "Wardens," he said, "are free to complain to the press if they are keen" but he warned "common courtesy" demands that they tell him before they do so.
Which, Mr. Bryden, being realistic means that they won't do so.
Not that it bothers WEB though, because RESIDENTS tell us everything anyway.

picture

poorly maintained.

The Government proposes to introduce a Tenant's Charter, developing a code of principles and practices designed to protect the freedom and rights of council tenants If you would like to look at the parts of the paper which affect you, it should be available for reading at the local public library.

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Of all the parents we interviewed we could find no-one who was dis-satisfied with either the school or Mr. Craddock's policies.

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Housing

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WEB SAYS.....

WE'RE NOT KNOCKING THE NATIONAL HEALTH-DON'T GET US WRONG.
WE'RE KNOCKING BUDGETING WHICH DOESN'T GIVE THE HOSPITAL ENOUGH MONEY TO WORK PROPERLY ; WE'RE KNOCKING PLANNING WHICH CAN'T SEE BEYOND THE END OF ITS NOSE AND WHICH IS DEMANDING THE IMPOSSIBLE FROM OVERWORKED DOCTORS AND NURSES; AND WE'RE KNOCKING SOME CONSULTANTS WHO ARE PAID GOOD WAGES BY THE NHS BUT ARE SO GREEDY FOR MORE ! MONEY THAT NHS PATIENTS HAVE TO WAIT IN LINE BEHIND THEIR PRIVATE ONES.

STOP PRESS more money to be put into T/side NHS next year. About time!

Industry

Web SCOOP

FACE TO FACE

WEB INTERVIEWS MR CRADDOCK

NO. 4

headmaster, West End School

Mr. Craddock has been Headmaster at West End for the last five years, previous to this he was Deputy Head for 4½ years. The school was built in 1912 and now draws pupils from a wide radius, as far away as Stalybridge, Mossley and Gee Cross. This year they took from twenty junior schools.

1. In your experience as both a teacher anda headmaster what would you say were the greatest changes which have come aboutiin educational methods in this country?

A. Ihave been in the business for 20yrs and came into teaching with pre setideas.
Academic standards have fallen off in certain areas due to falls in standards within schools. I never do anything without chatting to parents, I ask their opinion and from this formulate school policy.

2. Do you see the disciplinary role of the school as extending beyond school hours in an attempt to curb vandalism?
A. Yes, but there are limits. I can jump on a child for something which he does in school, but both he and I know that it's really for what he has done outside school.

comprehensives?

3. Do you wish to make any comments upon the current controversy surrounding Tameside's comprehensive reorganisation plans?
A. I havealways been in favour of comprehensive education. We have implemented our own version at West End and have had no complaints about the system.

4. What is the percentage of your pupils who continue their education after the ageof 16.
A. Only half of what it ought to be. Approximately 20-30% stay on. Most prefer to go on to college rather than grammar school.

COURSES?

5. Do you feel that your school is offering courses which are relevant to children in the West End?
A. We have to offer children a chance to go out into society, anywhere in the country. We therefore expect the highest academic qualifications possible. We encourage the brighter ones to go on to further education and those with a technical bias to go on to college or a company which will allow them to expand their ability.

6. How many children come to West End who should have gone to grammar school.
A. We get a lot of children who should get grammar school places, so offer an equivalent course.

7. What are your views on school Uniform?
A. I believe in school uniform. I feel that, in the long run, it is economical for parents, especially with girls where there is outside pressure to keep up with fashions. Uniform is also useful for recognising the pupils outside school.

8. Has your school suffered a great deal from the current cuts in educational spending.
A. Everyone suffers but we help ourselves. We get tremendous help from parents. Over £1,000 was raised last term for two events.

WHAT ABOUT PARENTS?

9. What value do you place upon parental involvement in school affairs?
A. This is something we are always pushing and although West End does have parental support it is not yet satisfactory.

10. Do you feel that the school meals service is providing meals which are suitably nourishing.
A. By and large our meals are very good. The 5th year have snack meals and there are snacks and coffee at break for senior pupils.

11. Do you find there is much resistance in the home to children doing homework?
A. Occasionally we do have this problem. There is a room set aside at school where work can be done at lunchtime for pupils with problems at home.

12. It would seem that children watch far too much T.V. and read too little. What are your views on this?
A. This is the parents responsibility. Children are in school five or six hours a day and spend far more time at home, especially with holidays.

WEB Comments:

WEB found Mr. Craddock very approachable. He has a genuine concern for the well-being of the children, school and community.

Of all the parents we interviewed we could find no-one who was dis-satisfied with either the school or Mr. Craddock's policies.

BACK TO SCHOOL

now

WEB READS TAMESIDES VIEWS ON IT'S OWN SCHOOLS.

"Profile" is a booklet in which Tameside Council examine their own services in every area for which they are responsible. WEB examined "Profile 2" to see what Tameside had to say about their Education service.

Throughout the area, one in five of our children still attends a school which was built before 1900. Out of the 22 local authorities in the North West in 1971, six had more children in old buildings than Tameside has now. The number of pupils to each teacher in Tameside is 25.6. Yes! It has finally happened, we have reached the point where we reckon in 0.6 of a child! This figure is just about the average for the GMC area, but it is a little worse than the national average figure of 23.6.

One alarming figure is that roughly one fifth of the 7 yr. old children in Tameside cannot read at all, even though Tameside's level of spending on books is one of the highest in Greater Manchester.

It is in the section on Secondary Education that we find the following almost comically pompous statement. "Certain families, predominantly in the lower Socio-Economic groups, show a noticable antipathy to the school environment." Instead of issuing such a statement it might have been more useful, if this is the case, to ask "Why?" Profile takes into account that it calls "Tameside's generally low score" in the areas of "socio economic background" and "parental achievement" when it states that this 20% of pupils who stay on at school after the age of 16 is a disappointing figure when it is compared with the 1971 national average figure of 30% and the figure of 36% for Stockport and Trafford for the same year.

One thing is certain. In a year which has seen a nationally-expressed concern about educational standards one further statistic clamours to be noticed. One percent of adults in Tameside cannot read at all. This does not sound very unusual or remarkable until one realises that this is twice the national average and concerns some 2,200 people. Even more startling is the fact that 13,400 people can barely read This is nearly three times the national average figure. So, somewhere along the line, something pretty serious is going wrong. WEB asks, "what is it ?"

and then

HAS SCHOOLING CHANGED? THE OLD FOLK OF THE WEST END REMEMBER.

As part of our 'Back to School' issue WEB decided to ask the old people of the West End what they remembered of their own schooling and whether they had any views on the schools of today. All those interviewed are members of the Tuesday 'Sunshine Club' at the West End Community Centre.

Ethel Cumming, age 77 or 73 Fitzroy St. remembers that to celebrate the end of the first world war, the children dressed themselves in red, white and blue, formed themselves into a Union Jack and marched to Trafalgar Sq. On a humourous note, she also remembers the big explosion at a local TNT factory, which blew her off the toilet!!

However, she did have some serious words to say about discipline; the word which now always seems to be mentioned in the same breath as education! Ethel, who can remember being caned three or four times a day feels that the lack of discipline is responsible for all the vandalism we see today.

Jessie Kelly, who was a pupil at St. Peter's school, remebers being caned for 'impertinance' This was because she lived near the school and was persistently late through 'taking her time to get there.'

Winifred Green, aged 84 of 98 Ann St. who left school at the age of 12 to work in the mill was at Ryecroft School on William St. and went to the Parish Church School each Saturday. She too remembers that they "had to do as they were told".

Jim Kelly who came to Ashton from Dublin at the age of 8 and stayed at St. Anne's school until he was 14 remembers being caned by a very strict Miss Hankin.

"I used to run away from school with my brother and got caned for this", he recalls. "When my brother left, I attended more regularly".

Jim's verdict on the modern world? "There's more pleasure today than people ever had."

Mrs. Bardsley of Victoria St. reminisced on the subject of school dinners, telling WEB that she had to walk up to Higginbottom School for her free school dinners, or alternatively to the Labour rooms in Cavendish St. where free school meals for the poor were also dispensed.

For our final word let us return to Ethel Cumming. She, like most of the others interviewed began work at the age of 12 and left school finally at the age of 13 after a period of 'work participation'. This may give some comfort to the unemployed school-leaver of today, albeit scant.

this is your right

10

FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT

To be eligible for FIS you should:-

1. Have children (include young people over 16yrs. still at school, living at home.)
2. Be in full time employment. (more than 30 hours per week).
3. Your gross family income should be less than the levels shown below.

One parent families and self-employed people also qualify for FIS.

Remember to calculate your gross earnings including bonuses and regular overtime, not your take home pay, and also include your wifes wage as your family income when you look at the table below.

No. of children	Income level below which you qualify.
1	£41.50
2	£45.00
3	£48.50
4	£52.00

For each additional child add £3.50 to qualifying incomes.

So, if you qualify for FIS you get half the difference between your families total income and the minimum wage calculation on the table.

For example:-

Couple with 2 children	
Family income (gross)	£37.00
Minimum income	£45.00
Difference	£8 .00
FIS payable	£4 .00

Single person with 1 child.	
Income	£20.00
Minimum income	£41.00
Difference	£21.50
FIS payable	£8 .50

So, go and get advice about whether you are eligible or not from your local Social Security Office (2, Booth St. A.U.L.)

HOW TO CLAIM

Get a form with the FIS leaflet from Post Offices or Social Security Offices, fill it in and send it away together with copies of your payslips (last 5 if paid weekly, last 2 if paid monthly). Don't delay sending the form, even without the slips.

These allowances are designed to help everyone who might qualify for them.

So keep claiming - every little helps!

TAMESIDE CANAL CRUISERS

William Street
Ashton-U-Lyne
Tel' 330 4374

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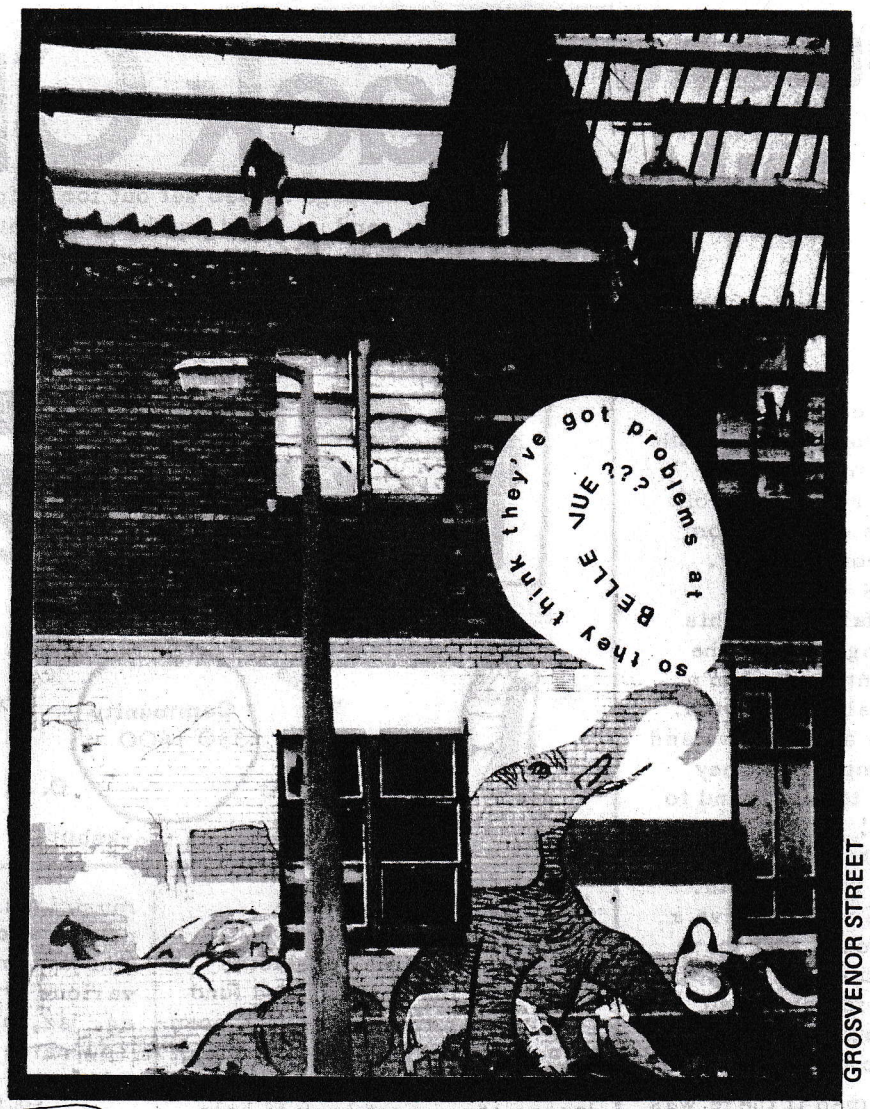
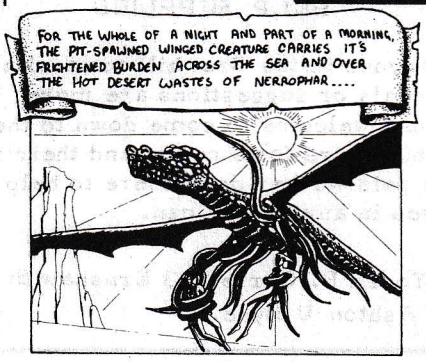
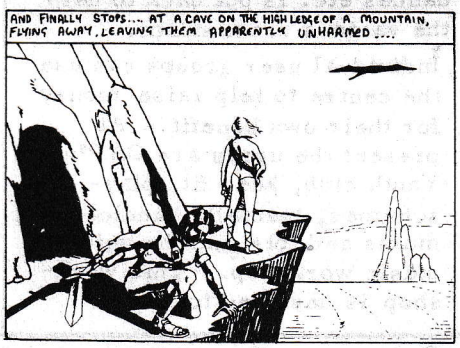
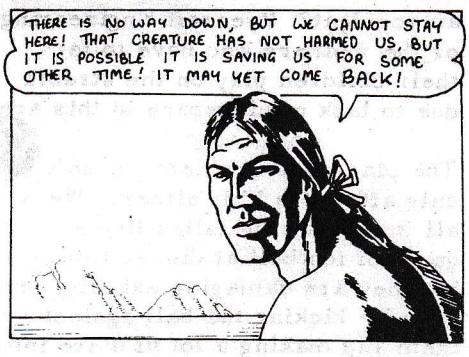
ring...

330 5664 now!

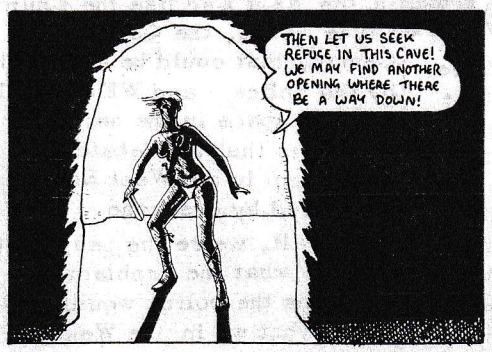



FOR THE WHOLE OF A NIGHT AND PART OF A MORNING, THE PIT-SPAWNED WINGED CREATURE CARRIES IT'S FRIGHTENED BURDEN ACROSS THE SEA AND OVER THE HOT DESERT WASTES OF NERROPHAR....




THERE IS NO WAY DOWN, BUT WE CANNOT STAY HERE! THAT CREATURE HAS NOT HARMED US, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE IT IS SAVING US FOR SOME OTHER TIME! IT MAY YET COME BACK!

Chronicles of Pelador



Back Chat

Back Chat is the page in web set out for reader's comments, the letters you send us about anything that interests you. So drop us a line to W.E.B. 1 Hawthorn Grove Ashton U Lyne Lancashire.

No Smoke Without Fire

Dear Web,

On passing the back of Ryecroft Engineering on Tuesday Sept.13th at around 1.00 p.m. we saw a huge fire and a large amount of thick black smoke coming from the yard of the above factory.

SMOKELESS ZONE

Residents of Trafalgar say this has been happening a lot in the last couple of months, and in a supposedly smokeless zone too! They have to shut all windows and bring their washing in, if they are lucky enough to be around to bring it in that is!

But, they say that the worst of all the fires was on Tuesday 13th. My husband and I went to have a closer look and found that there was nobody guarding the fire. The gates were wide open, so young children could easily be tempted to go into the works yard.

Who would be blamed if there was an accident? Ryecroft Engineering or the mothers who have to let their children play on the streets due to lack of playspace in this area.

DAMAGE

The playspace problem doesn't enly affect the kids either. We all know that the fellas like a game of football at dinner time, but they are damaging existing garages by kicking the ball against them and making a lot of noise into the bargain.

Now these garage owners say that Tameside have asked them to make the garages look presentable and make good any repairs that are necessary. What is the point? Windows have been broken during these dinner time football sessions too. Admittedly, they have been paid for but the residents should not have to put up with this inconvenience.

Sheila Mardy, Pottinger St.

As promised, here's the article/letter from Crowhill. After all the initial problems faced with the building and fund raising etc. the Centre was opened on Sept. 3rd 1977. All the money raised by jumble sales, dances etc. is put back to help the various users needs.

Individual user-groups can use the centre to help raise money for their own benefit. At present the users are OAP's, Youth club, keep fit, playschemes, mentally handicapped, mums and tots and the unique music workshop. This workshop is designed to enable musicians who otherwise have nowhere to play to come down and jam and experiment with the various types of music around eg. jaz, blues, rock, ethnic etc. You name it, we'll play it.

HELP SUPPLIED

Anyone in the Crowhill area with idea's or suggestions are more than welcome to come down to the the centre for a natter and their's a paid worker down there to help you in any way he can.

Yours P. Garrett 13 Ernshaw St Ashton U Lyne.

Vandalism

WEB hears that the police have been getting together with some probation officers and social workers to study the problem of vandalism in the West End, and hopefully to come up with some answers. WEB welcomes this but would like to suggest that the best people to talk to are the people who have to live in and amongst the vandalism.

There are enough organisations in the West End like the Churches Clyde House, the Community Centre, that could be approached by the police - and WEB is willing to offer space in the next few issues so that the debate on vandalism in the West End can be shared by everyone.

After all, we're the people who KNOW what the problem is - so perhaps the police would like to hear what we in the West End have to say.

ashtown blues

TUNE TO "OH MY DARLING"

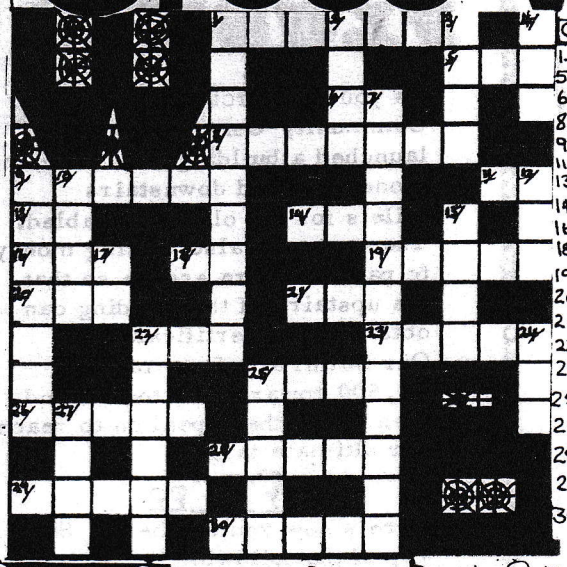
Oh Ashton, Oh Ashton, Oh Ashton Under Lyne,
Streets decaying, tenants praying for Ashton Under Lyne.

Let's rebuild it, let's rebuild it make it better than the rest,
You're not trying, you're not trying to do your best.

Oh Ashton, oh Ashton, oh Ashton Under Lyne,
Streets decaying, we'll go on praying
For Ashton Under Lyne,

ANON.

Cross Word



CLUES

Across	Down
1. Red Pepper	1. Show
5. Month	2. Lost in thought
6. Postscript	3. Let it be.
8. High Spirits	4. Affirmative
9. Microscopic animal.	
11. To live	7. Meaning
13. Negative	9. Ring Shaped
14. Came first	10. Low murmer
16. Catch	12. Old length Measure
18. Pronoun	
19. Perfect	15. True, real.
20. One	17. Double
21. Away	22. Raised Walking Poles
22. Place to Keep Pigs	
23. Picturesque Scene	24. Dark resin
25. Boy's name	25. Mineral used for polishing.
26. Mad	
28. Sticky Substance	
29. Entirely	
30. Garden Tool	27. Mineral salt

DOWN. ANSWERS TO LAST CROSSWORD

	Across	
1. Habiliments	1. Howdah	15. Die
2. Wants	5. Tag	17. Nigh
3. Autosuggestion	6. Notion	19. Inn
4. Tan	7. Intoo	20. Eeire
5. To	9. Menial	21. Curb
8. Pell-mell	11. Sauce	22. Trees
9. Mendacious	12. Plum	24. Lisa
10. Inedible	13. Nape	25. Once
16. In	14. Ell	27. Saracen
18. He		
23. Raven		
26. Cur		

Kids' Street Songs & JOKES

The big ship sails through the Ally ally oh,
The ally ally oh,
The ally ally oh,
The big ship sails through the Ally ally oh,
On the last day of September.

What's green and goes Boing, Boing, Boing ? SPRING CABBAGE****!

Did you hear about the spirited rugby player who always had a try?

Or the short sighted jockey who couldn't find the weigh-in?

Or the tennis player who was taken to court for making a racquet?

Or the slow swimmer who could only crawl?

WORD

BENIGN Ill be home benign O'clock.

FELON He felon his head.

MUSKETEER He musketeer soon.

ORIGIN Will you have whisky Origin.

ROLAND I'd like roland butter.

VARLETS Roses are red, varlets are blue.

XMAS The xmas be boiled for four minutes.

YOKEL Then the yokel be just right.

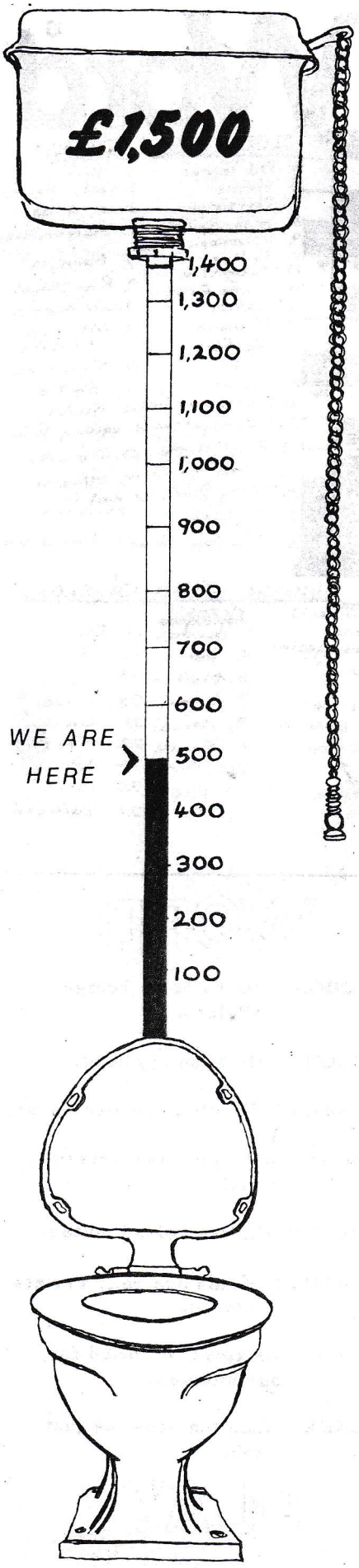
PLAY

Sick of paying good money for a Bad Job?

WHY NOT COME TO A LOCAL MAN FOR A GOOD JOB,

AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD,
ALL HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN INSIDE AND OUT

Les Harris Services
199, Stockport Road
Tel. 330 4368



FEELING FLUSHED?

As you will probably know, the Community Centre has recently launched a building fund to raise money to build downstairs toilets for the old and disabled. The centre is also raising money to pay for a fire escape so that the upstairs of the building can obtain a fire certificate.
Our initial aim is to raise £1,500 towards the toilets and then carry the appeal on to reach our ultimate target.

£££££

Here's how you can help. Send any of the following to the Community Centre.....

1. Money!!!!!!
2. Cigarette coupons.
3. Co-op stamps.
4. Green shield stamps.
5. Anything the centre can turn into cash.

coming soon

One of the first events organised by the Centre for the building fund will be the

A U T U M N F A I R

which will take place at the Centre on Friday 28th Oct. and Saturday 29th Oct.
Tombola, Arts & Craft stalls, Raffles, Games, White Elephant, Cake stall and many more.

AUTUMN FAIR
West End Community Centre
October 28th and 29th

Come along to Arts and Crafts every Tuesday evening 7.30 Community Centre, John St.

HARVEST SUPPER
Oct.1st 7.30. Tickets only 35p.
Concert party, bar,
St. Peter's school.

West End Conservative Club
"ROBIN DUNNCAN SHOW"
Oct. 31. 8.00 Tickets 30p.

AUTUMN FAIR
St. Peter's School
Nov. 12th at 2.30.

WHATS ON

SHELTER COLLECTION
Saturday October 15th
Details from Community Centre John St.

GRAND FIREWORK DISPLAY
St. Peter's Church Nov.5. 8.45 pm

Community Relations Council
Got an hour a week to spare?
Help to teach English to Asian ladies in the home.
Contact Volunteer Bureau.
339-2345.

Face to Face

Your problems are ours so bring them along to us;

COUNCILLORS: F. RUFFLEY, J.V. PETTIT & P. McENEANEY

AT TRAFALGAR SQ. NURSERY

1ST SAT EVERY MONTH 10-12 NOON

and HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

3RD SAT EVERY MONTH 10-12 NOON

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